

Flora of Andhra Pradesh: in retrospect and prospect



T. Pullaiah

Department of Botany,
Sri Krishnadevaraya University
Anantapur – 515 003, Andhra Pradesh, India

Andhra Pradesh state lies between 12°31' and 19°54' North latitudes and 76°46' and 84°46' East longitudes. With an area of 2,76,754 sq.km. it accounts for 8.4% of the area of country. It has the longest coastline of 972 km. Altitude varies from sea level to 1500 m, while rainfall varies from 55 cm during the South-West to 150 cm during the North-East monsoons.

A total of 2601 species of Angiosperms belonging to 1035 genera and 173 families occur in this state. The dominant families in Andhra Pradesh with respective number of species are Fabaceae (Leguminosae) (299 spp.), Poaceae (281 spp.), Cyperaceae (139 spp.), Euphorbiaceae (126 spp.), Acanthaceae (108 spp.), Asteraceae (105 spp.), Rubiaceae (88 spp.), Orchidaceae (69 spp.), Lamiaceae (65 spp.) and Convolvulaceae (61 spp.). The ten dominant genera are *Crotalaria* (44 species), *Euphorbia* (30), *Ipomoea* (24), *Indigofera* (23), *Fimbristylis* (23), *Cassia* (22), *Ficus* (22), *Grewia* (18) and *Leucas* (20).

New species described from Andhra Pradesh since the publication of the **Flora of the Presidency of Madras** include *Andrographis nallamalayana*, *Argyreia arakuensis*, *Boswellia ovalifoliolata*, *Cyathocline manilaliana*, *Decasclastia cuddapahensis*, *Dimorphocalyx kurnoolensis*, *Euphorbia senguptae*, *Habenaria romayyana*, *Hybanthus vatsavayii*, *Iseilema venkateswarluui*, *Kalanchoe clerukondensis*, *Leucas mukherjiana*, *ophiorrhiza chandrasekharanii*, *Pimpinella tirupatensis* and *Urginea nagarjunae*. Endangered taxa in Andhra Pradesh include *Acacia campbelli*, *Albizia thompsoni*, *Ceropegia spiralis*, *Decaschistia rufa*, *Eriolaena lushingtonii*, *Hildegardia populifolia*, *Indigofera barberi*, *Isonandra villosa*, *Leucas mukherjiana*, *Nilgiranthus circarensis*, *Phlebophyllum jeyporensis*, *Phyllanthus narayanaswanii*, *Pimpinella tirupatensis*, *Rhynchosia beddomei* and *Toxocarpus longistigma*. Wild relatives of crop plants include *Cajanus cajanifolius*, *C. albicans*, *C. crassus*, *C. rugosus*, *C. scarabaeoides*, *Oryza nyeriana*, *O. officinalis* ssp. *malampuzhaensis*, *O. rufipogon*, *Piper attenuatum*, *P. hymenophyllum* and *P. nigrum*.

Abstract of the Dr. Y.D. Tiagi Medal Lecture delivered on 26th September 2002 during the Twelfth Annual Conference of the Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy held at Goa University, Goa.